

Putney Central School Kindergarten Committee

July 20, 2004

Minutes

Committee members present: Cami Elliott-Knaggs, Meredith Wade, Holly Hammand, Sarah Baker, Beckie Coffey, Amelia Stone and Kim Friedman

Clarify proposed goal: study and explore a kindergarten structure that best meets the needs of the Putney Central school community – half day, extended day, full-day - based on enrollment and other pertinent factors.

II. Data Collection methods – What do we want to learn from the survey?

BRAINSTORM

Information to be gleaned from parents of pre-school and school-age children:

1. If you had a choice, what would you choose? (see Brattleboro survey)
2. At what point, do you feel a kindergarten class is too big?
3. What student/teacher ration would you like to see?
4. Does the age of you child influence your choice of K program?
5. What factors influence where you send your child to K? work schedule, home schooling, age of child, money, religion, educational philosophy, location, transportation, length of program, class size, special ed services, lunch program, on-site before/after school day care, counseling services, nurse, diversity, socio-economic considerations, academic rigor, peer group consideration, standards-based education, pre-school/kindergarten cycle
6. Please check your child's pre-k experience? Playgroup, home, pre-school – part/full time
7. What are your child-care needs?
8. If you are planning on sending...to PCS, then _____. If you are not, why not?
9. What do you see as the pros and cons of: half-day kindergarten; extended day kindergarten; full-day kindergarten?
10. When I choose my K program, am I choosing the 1-8th grade program?

III. Develop questions for:

a. Survey

Demographics (from Primer)

How many years have you lived in our school district?

Less than one year

1-3 years

4-9 years

10 or more years

Do you have children of school age or younger? Yes or No

What grades are they in? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

Pre-school

Elementary 1-2; 3-4; 5-6

Middle School 7-8

High School (grades 9-10)

- b. focus groups
- c. phone interview

Next steps w/questions. Review questions through various lenses: school board, principal, K teacher and parent. Clarify audience. Review for content. Which of the questions are most appropriate for the survey, the focus group and the telephone interviews? Refine for right language (approx. grade 8 level). Circulate to whole committee via email. Finalize draft questions for August 17th meeting.

Small group to refine survey- Jan Blanchard, Meredith Wade, Beckie Coffey and Amelia Stone Thursday, July 29th from 3:00-4:30 pm at PCS.

Next meeting: Aug. 17th 12:30-2:00 pm

- I. Finalize questions
- II. Who should receive the survey/how will it be disseminated
- III. Divide up the work